



Secondary Focus Zone

North—10th Street
 East—Bluff Road
 South—Hanna Avenue
 West—High School Road

Monitoring Locations

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are hazardous air pollutants?

A: The U.S. EPA defines hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) as those pollutants that are known to or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental effects.

Q: Why is a study of HAPs being done in my neighborhood?

A: Southwest Indianapolis, along with many other areas in the United States, was identified by the U.S. EPA in a national air toxics assessment as an area of potential concern.

Q: How will this study affect my family's daily life?

A: Daily routines should not change. Other than community meetings, you may not even be aware that a study is taking place.

Q: Who can I call if I have questions about this study?

A: The following people are available to answer any questions you might have about what is going on:

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management:

Brian Wolff - (317) 234-3499 or
bwolff@idem.in.gov

Bowden Quinn - (317) 233-3835 or
bquinn@idem.in.gov

The City of Indianapolis

Felicia Robinson - (317) 327-2271 or
frobins1@indygov.org

Southwest Indianapolis



Neighborhood Air Toxics Study

Project Summary
 July 2006

www.idem.IN.gov/programs/air/workgroups/swindyairtox

Who?

- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- City of Indianapolis
- Center for Environmental Health –IUPUI
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Community groups, local businesses and environmental organizations

What is it?

A two-year study of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) whose purpose is to determine whether any of them may be present in the air in concentrations that would warrant further attention.



Air toxics monitor

Where will it happen?

Boundaries of study area:

North-10th Street
East-Bluff Road
South-Hanna Avenue
West-High School Road

Monitoring Locations:

- 1321 S. Harding Street
- Stout Field National Guard Armory, 1802 S. Holt Rd.

When will it happen?

Monitoring will begin in the fall of 2006 and continue for two years.

Why is the study being done?

The U.S. EPA has determined HAP concentration levels that indicate potential levels of risk for various chemical exposures.

IDEM will use screening levels to identify those HAPs in southwestern Indianapolis that need a closer look. The U.S. EPA calls this process "risk characterization." It is not a full risk assessment and cannot be used to determine actual health threats.

IDEM will use this process to eliminate from the study those HAPs with expected risks that are below the U.S. EPA levels in order to focus its resources on the HAPs that may need further attention.

After determining which HAPs to focus on, IDEM and its partners, particularly the City of Indianapolis, will identify emission sources for these HAPs. IDEM has already compiled a list of 178 industrial and commercial sources in or near the broad study area.

To properly characterize risk, IDEM needs information including emission rates, stack heights and locations and emission temperatures. IDEM will request the required information from individual sources.

IDEM will use other state and national databases to identify additional sources, including smaller area sources, mobile sources (cars and trucks) and background levels (from sources that exist far away from the study area).

IDEM expects this phase of the study to begin in the spring of 2007.

What will be done with the information?

When IDEM and its partners have collected this information (called an emissions inventory) for those HAPs that exceed the screening levels, it will use this information, along with the measurements from the monitoring stations, to more accurately model potential risks in the broader study area.

IDEM will use a new U.S. EPA modeling program called the Regional Air Impact Modeling Initiative (RAIMI) to estimate potential health impacts from these HAPs. In addition to cancer risks, the model will indicate other potential health threats. Modeling should begin in the late summer of 2007.

At the start of the study, IDEM will form two advisory groups to provide suggestions on how to proceed. One will be a public advisory group composed of city officials, local residents, community leaders and business representatives. The second will be a technical advisory group composed of experts on toxicology, risk characterization and modeling.

These two groups will provide advice to IDEM during the course of the study and, depending upon the study results, may also suggest next steps that the partners could take to reduce emission levels of those HAPs identified as warranting further action.

Air monitoring station

